

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00613 291806Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1144

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMFRSSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0613

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GY, A CA, ZA

SUBJECT: KAUNDA AND TRUDEAU VISIT GUYANA

1. SUMMARY: ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA AND CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU VISITED GUYANA DURING WEEKEND OF APRIL 25-27. BOTH VISITS WERE INFORMAL AND WERE INTENDED BY BURNHAM PRIMARILY TO ADD TO HIS EXTERNAL PRESTIGE AND INTERNAL STANDING AND TO ENCOURAGE GUYANESE TO HAVE MORE PRIDE IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR COUNTRY. PROMINENT ROLE GIVEN TO RULING PNC IN BOTH RECEPTION AND DECORATIONS DEMONSTRATED DEFACTO MERGER OF PARTY AND STATE.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. DURING WEEKEND OF APRIL 25-27, PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM HOSTED VISITS TO GUYANA BY ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA AND CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU. KAUNDA AND HIS THIRTY MEMBER PARTY INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER V'J. MWAANGA ARRIVED FIRST, ON EVENING OF APRIL 25, AFTER UNSCHEDULED VOLUNTARY STOP IN
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 00613 291806Z

HAITI, REPORTEDLY TO TALK WITH HAITIANS ON "AFRICAN LIBERATION

MOVEMENTS". BURNHAM, HIGH GOVT OFFICIALS, DIPLOMATS, MEMBERS OF RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) SECRETARIAT, AND THE USUAL BAND, HONOR GUARD, AND GOG-INSPIRED CROWDS WERE KEPT WAITING AT THE AIRPORT FOR FOUR HOURS BECAUSE OF THE HAITIAN STOPOVER. BURNHAM, HIS THIRD WORLD COLLEAGUE, AND MEMBERS ZAMBIAN DELEGATION THEN PROCEEDED FROM AIRPORT TO GEORGETOWN IN FLEET OF CADILLACS AND OTHER U.S.-BUILT CARS WHICH WERE PURCHASED SPECIALLY FOR VISITS OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES. AT BOTANIC GARDENS, GEORGETOWN MAYOR KENNETH SHORT DELIVERED IN BRIEF WELCOMING ADDRESS. IN REPLY, KAUNDA THANKED GUYANESE FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN STRUGGLE AGAINST RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA AND PRAISED LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM. KAUNDA ALSO PAID CEREMONIAL CALL ON PRESIDENT ARTHUR CHUNG AND AFTERWARDS HAD INFORMAL DINNER AT RESIDENCE OF PM BURNHAM.

3. ON APRIL 26, KAUNDA PARTICIPATED IN WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT MONUMENT TO NON-ALIGNED LEADERS AND THEN WAS TAKEN OFF TO VISIT NATIONAL SERVICE CAMP AT KIMBIA AND VILLAGE OF CORRIVERTON ON SURINAM BORDER. THIS CLEARED STAGE FOR GOVT MINISTERS, DIPLOMATS, AND WELCOMING CRPWDS TO REPEAT PREVIOUS DAYS PERFORMANCE FOR ARRIVAL OF TRUDEAU. AT HIS WELCOMING CEREMONY IN BOTANIC GARDENS

TRUDEAU SPOKE OF GUYANESE AND CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP, EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SEEKING MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WORLD'S WEALTH, AND PRAISED CARIBBEAN LEADERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS THIS GOAL. TRUDEAU THEN PAID CALL ON PRESIDENT CHUNG AND WAS GUEST, ALONG WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA, AT INFORMAL RECEPTION AT RESIDENCE OF BURNHAM.

4. ON SUNDAY, APRIL 29, TRUDEAU VISITED AREAS IN INTERIOR INCLUDING AMERINDIAN VILLAGE OF KARASABAI, KAITEUR FALLS, AND ORINDUIK FALLS. WITH TRUDEAU OTHERWISE OCCUPIED, PM BURNHAM ACCOMPANIED KAUNDA TO AIRPORT FOR HIS AFTERNOON DEPARTURE. ON APRIL 28, BURNHAM AND TRUDEAU DEPARTED GUYANA TOGETHER FOR COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVT MEETING IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. COMMENT: VISITS OF TRADEAU AND KAUNDA WERE INFORMAL. THERE WERE NO FORMAL SPEECHES, NO PRESS CONFERENCES, NO COMMUNIQUE NO TRADE DEALS, NO ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS. BOTH VISITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GEORGE 00613 291806Z

DID, HOWEVER, RECEIVE EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE IN LOCAL MEDIA AND EVOKED SOME MEASURE OF ENTHUSIASM FROM GUYANESE. NOT EVEN THE SEEMING DISCOURTESY OF KAUNDA IN KEEPING GUYANA'S OFFICIALS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAITING FOUR HOURS AT THE AIRPORT RECEIVED UNFAVORABLE COMMENT IN THE GOG-CONTROLLED PRESS. THE VISITS UNDOUBTEDLY SERVED PM BURNHAM'S PURPOSES, NAMELY, TO ADD TO HIS EXTERNAL PRESTIGE AND INTERNAL STANDING AND TO ENCOURAGE GUYANESE TO HAVE MORE PRIDE IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR COUNTRY.

THE FACT THAT SECRETARIES OF THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS
(PNC) WERE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE AIRPORT RECEIVING LINES IMMEDIATELY
AFTER GOV MINISTERS BUT BEFORE MINISTERS OF STATE AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS
ILLUSTRATED THE CREEPING DEFACTO MERGER OF PARTY AND STATE. THE
PREDOMINANCE FOR THE FIRST TIME OF PNC FLAGS OVER GUYANA FLAGS ON THE
FRONTS OF ALL GOVT MINISTRIES AND EVEN ON THE APPEALS COURT BUILDING
GAVE ADDED PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF THAT TREND.
KREBS

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